Passing of Cess Amount to the OIDB

664. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) the amount of money collected by Government as cess from petroleum industry and passed on to the Oil Industry Development Board; and

(b) whether the Government to reexamine the cess issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The net collection of the Government from Cess upto 31.3.19% was Rs. 25,955 crores approximately and the allocation of Cess to the OIDB upto 31.3.1996 was Rs. 902.40 crores.

(b) As per Section 16 of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974, the cess is to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Centra! Government may, after due appropriation made by the Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Board such sums of money out of the proceeds of cess as the Government may consider necessary. As per the Legislative provisions, the cess is to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and a part of it may be paid to the Oil Industry Development Board. To the extent, the cess collection exceeds the sums directly paid to OIDB, it becomes a resource for financing Government expenditure in and for extending direct and indirect budgetary support to the Cntral Public Sector Undertakings in Petroleum, Petrochemicals and Fertilizers Sectors. Presently, there is no proposal to re-examine the above provision.

Setting Up of National Power Grid

665. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to exempt power projects of all sizes and costs from Central clearance; if so, the details of the decision taken;

(b) whether Government propose to exercise some element of control with a view to set up national power grid which would coordinate power supply among the States and resolve disputes that frequently arise among the states; if so, the details in this regard; *and*

(c) if not, what other measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The government have decided that a scheme shall be submitted to the Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence only if the capital expenditure exceeds Rupees One thousand crores for a scheme for a generating station prepared by a Generating Company and selected through a process of competitive bidding and Rupees One hundred crores in relation to all other schemes.

(b) and (c) The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has been set up for establishment and operation of Regional and National Power Grids to facilitate transfer of power within and across the Regions. The Power Grid and REBs regularly monitor the power supply position and also address disputes, if any.

Revamping the MP Area Development Scheme

666. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to revamp the MP Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) the funds released therefor during 1996-97;